

Creating A Custom Theme

Custom Theme How to Create a Custom Theme: A Step-by-Step Guide ■ Introduction ■

This guide shows you how to apply and dynamically switch between brand themes in a Play+ application. Built on the Metamorphic pillar and powered by a token-driven architecture, Play+ supports pure CSS-based theming — with automatic derivation of hover, focus, dark mode, and accessibility tokens. All users need to do is modify a single file:

`_custom-theme.css` . No SCSS. No boilerplate. Overview ■ Play+ ships with a default color palette, fonts, spacing, and radii — known as global tokens . You don't need to define these unless you're adding custom values. To theme your app: Pick from the provided tokens in `_custom-theme.css` (Optional) Add custom raw values directly in the CSS Switch themes at runtime with a single line of code Folder Structure Example ■ `src/` ■■■■ `styles/` ■■■■ `tokens/` ■■■■ `themes/` ■■■■ `_default.css` ■■■■ `_enterprise.css` ■■■■ `_acme.css` ■■■■

`_custom-theme.css` Step 1: Define Your Brand Theme via CSS ■ Create a

`_custom-theme.css` file for your brand. Each semantic token is mapped either to: A Play+ pre-defined global token name (e.g., `var(--global-color-blue-500)`), or A raw value (e.g., `#007BFF` , `"Inter, sans-serif"` , `"8px"`) /* styles/tokens/themes/_custom-theme.css */ [`data-theme = "custom"`] { /* PRIMARY (Your Brand Color) */ `--color-brand-primary : var (` `--global-color-blue-500` `);` `--color-brand-primary-hover : var (` `--global-color-blue-700` `);` `--color-surface-interactive-primary : var (` `--global-color-blue-500` `);` `--color-border-primary :` `var (` `--global-color-blue-500` `);` /* SECONDARY (Accent Color) */ `--color-brand-secondary :` `var (` `--global-color-teal-600` `);` `--color-brand-secondary-hover : var (` `--global-color-teal-700` `);` `--color-surface-interactive-secondary : var (` `--global-color-teal-100` `);` `--color-border-secondary : var (` `--global-color-teal-600` `);` /* BACKGROUND & SURFACE */ `--color-background-primary : var (` `--global-color-white` `);` `--color-background-secondary : var (` `--global-color-gray-50` `);` `--color-surface-interactive-default : var (` `--global-color-blue-500` `);` `--color-surface-disabled : var (` `--global-color-gray-200` `);` /* BORDERS */ `--color-border-default : var (` `--global-color-gray-300` `);` `--color-border-interactive : var (` `--global-color-blue-500` `);` `--color-border-focus : var (` `--global-color-blue-500` `);` `--color-border-error : var (` `--global-color-red-500` `);` } That's all you need to do to brand your app.

Play+ will handle hover, contrast text, focus rings, and dark mode derivations automatically.

Step 2: Load the Theme Dynamically ■ In your app's entry point (e.g., `main.ts` , `index.tsx` , or equivalent), load your desired theme by setting the data attribute: // `main.ts` or `index.tsx`

`document . documentElement . setAttribute ("data-theme" , "custom") ;` This tells Play+ to apply the mappings defined in `styles/tokens/themes/_custom-theme.css` . You can switch themes based on tenant ID, user preferences, or URL parameters. This will apply `styles/tokens/themes/_custom-theme.css` Switching themes per tenant, user, or route becomes trivial

Step 3: Default Theme Fallback ■ If no theme is selected, Play+ automatically falls back to the default theme: `styles/tokens/themes/_default.css`

What Play+ Does Behind the Scenes ■ Once `--color-brand-primary` is set, Play+ will automatically derive:

- `--color-brand-primary-hover` : (darkened or lightened)
- `--color-text-on-brand-primary` : (accessible contrast color)
- `--color-border-focus` : based on context
- dark mode variants : using the same token map with transformations

This reduces errors, increases consistency, and eliminates boilerplate.

Best Practices ■ **Do:** ■ Only edit `_custom-theme.css` Use named semantic roles like `--color-brand-primary` , `--global-radius-md` , `--font-family-heading` Keep themes self-contained Use predictable folder structure (`themes/_custom-theme.css`)

Don't: ■ Modify core Play+ theme internals Write hardcoded values in your components Duplicate logic for hover, focus, etc. Try to derive variants yourself — let Play+ handle that

With this CSS-first approach, Play+ makes it possible to theme entire apps through configuration — with runtime switching, zero SCSS, and built-in intelligence for accessibility and state management. Just change the CSS. Play+ takes care of the rest.

```

src/
  styles/
    tokens/
      themes/
        _default.css
        _enterprise.css
        _acme.css
        _custom-theme.css

---

/* styles/tokens/themes/_custom-theme.css */
[data-theme="custom"] {
  /* PRIMARY (Your Brand Color) */
  --color-brand-primary: var(--global-color-blue-500);
  --color-brand-primary-hover: var(--global-color-blue-700);
  --color-surface-interactive-primary: var(--global-color-blue-500);
  --color-border-primary: var(--global-color-blue-500);

  /* SECONDARY (Accent Color) */
  --color-brand-secondary: var(--global-color-teal-600);
  --color-brand-secondary-hover: var(--global-color-teal-700);
  --color-surface-interactive-secondary: var(--global-color-teal-100);
  --color-border-secondary: var(--global-color-teal-600);

  /* BACKGROUND & SURFACE */
  --color-background-primary: var(--global-color-white);
  --color-background-secondary: var(--global-color-gray-50);
  --color-surface-interactive-default: var(--global-color-blue-500);
  --color-surface-disabled: var(--global-color-gray-200);

  /* BORDERS */
  --color-border-default: var(--global-color-gray-300);
  --color-border-interactive: var(--global-color-blue-500);
  --color-border-focus: var(--global-color-blue-500);
  --color-border-error: var(--global-color-red-500);
}

---

// main.ts or index.tsx
document.documentElement.setAttribute("data-theme", "custom");

---

styles/tokens/themes/_default.css

```